हेतु उपाय किए जाते हैं कि तकनीकी प्राधिकरणों के साथ परामर्श करने के पश्चात् आवेदन इस समय-सीमा के भीतर निपटा दिए जाएं ।

Foreign exchange spent and earned by MUL

1227. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of foreign exchange spent and earned by the Maruti Udyog Limited as on 31st March, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that this company has spent more foreign exchange than it has earned by export upto the year ending 31st March, 1992; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) Till March 31, 1992, Maruti Udyog Ltd. had spent Rs. 1300.48 crores in foreign exchange for import of components and had earned Rs. 401.9 crores in foreign exchange.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The establishment of Maruti Udyog Ltd. with the object of bringing about modernisation of the automobile industry, producing vehicles which were fuel efficient and increasing the production of automobiles in the interest of economic growth has required more foreign exchange than was initially recoverable from its own exports. During 1991-92, however, Maruti Udyog Ltd. has earned more foreign exchange than what it spent for import of components.

Production of Salt from Sambhar lake in Rajasthan

1228. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of salt from Sambhar lake in Rajasthan has gone down ever-since it was handed over to the Central Government in 1961;

(b) what were the terms and conditions on which the Sambhar Salts Limited was handed over to the Central Government on lease basis;

(c) the present holding of the Centre and State of Rajasthan in the Rajasthan Salts Works presently taken over by the Hindustan Salts Limited;

(d) the reasons for the continuing downward slide both in production and profitability of Sambhar Salt Works and the accumulated losses;

(e) whether the Rajasthan Government has asked for the transfer of ownership of the Sambhar Salts; and

(f) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The production of salt by Sambhar Salts Ltd. from Sambhar Lake has declined from an average of 2.18 lakh MTs per annum in the sixties to an average of 1.76 lakh MTs per annum at present mainly due to climatic changes in the lake area.

(b) Major instrument for transfer of Sambhar source to Government of India was V. T. Krishnamachari Award of 29th April, 1961 which *inter-alia* laid down following terms and conditions;

(i) Lease for 99 years. Government of Rajasthan would be paid Annual rent @ of Rs. 5.50 lakhs over the entire lease period.

(ii) Government of India would allot free shares in favour of Govt. of Rajasthan to the extent of 40% of paid up capital of Sambhar Salts Ltd. This would be in full compensation to Govt. of Rajasthan for royalty.

(iii) Government of Rajasthan would have two representatives on the Board of Sambhar Salts Ltd.

(iv) Government of Rajasthan would ensure free flow of water into Lake.